

March 2005

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NEW EXPRESSION News Magazine



By Teens, For Teens, ABOUT Teens

March 2005 Volume 28 Issue 7

My GOD Is Better Than Your GOD

Teens Of Different Religious Backgrounds, Including
Atheist, Explains Their Beliefs

Cover Story: Pg.11



Is Judgement Day Near?

Jesus In The Mainstream

Pg.13

NEWS SPECIAL: Pushing Policies To Raise Test Scores...Pg.6



Hello Everyone,

Spring is in the air and school is almost out. Hopefully you all are enjoying these last few issues of New Expression as our year is winding down.

It has been a stressful couple of months, but needless to say the staff here at New Expression is doing the best job that we can do to keep you, the readers, entertained and up-to-date with the news that we provide for you.

Needless to say we have a great issue for you this month (I say that every month, but that's because I feel that all of our issues are great. The staff here is wonderful and if you ever met any of the NE writers then you would know just how great each individual really is.)

Now getting down to business, in this month issue of New Expression our stories range from a wide variety of the over crowdedness of high schools to whether or not the aspect of religion is being commercialized.

In our main stories we are dealing with the touchy subject of religion. Many cultures believe in many different gods and some even feel that their individual god is better then all the rest so in honor of this aspect we have a story titled "My God Is Better Than Your God".

Some people feel that people are taking Jesus and using Him to market and endorse their products. For this we have an article entitled "Is Jesus Going to Mainstream?"

Also, Saint Patrick's Day is coming and we also have stories in store for you about the stereotypes that the Irish have to go through.

I hope you guys are enjoying the paper and if not then you know you can always email me to let me know what improvements you feel should be made. Take care, bye.

Eyevie McHenry

Eyevie McHenry
Editor-in-Chief
editor@newexpression.org

NE This Month in New Expression

March 2005



NE takes a look at different religion choices and how others see these.

My God is Better Than Your God pg.11

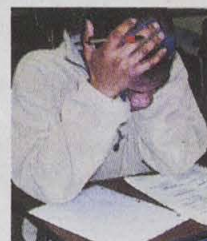


Has Jesus gone commercial / NE sees how "the Christ" has been marketed.

Jesus In The Mainstream pg.13



Not All Leprachans & Shamrocks: The Truth Behind St. Patrick's Day. pg.19



Pushing policy to raise test scores in schools. Bush Pushes Plan To Raise Test Scores In High Schools pg.6

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March 2005

Entertainment News

Comedy Prince Becomes King of the Big Screen

Seasoned actor takes home long-overdue Oscar

Comedian Chris Rock foreshadowed the evening when he joked about the award show being like "def-Oscar Jam night" nominations for African American actors and actresses at the start of the show, but his predictions were founded.

From WB funny man to leading man on the big screen, actor

Jaime Foxx stole Hollywood hearts when he snagged his first Academy Award on Sunday, Feb 27 for his portrayal of the legendary Ray Charles in the movie "Ray".

Foxx was honored in the Best Actor in a motion picture category for his role as the late entertainer. Foxx gave a heart-tugging speech as he clutched his award and talked of his dearly departed grandmother. Foxx said she taught him to be strong, and his dreams would be about his grandmother to talk her about this great accomplishment.

Foxx was also up for the best

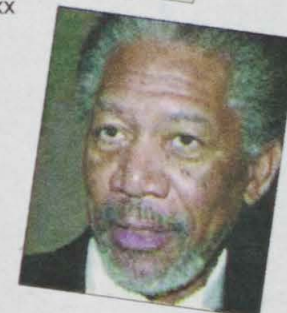
supporting actor Oscar for his role in "Collateral" but that honor was given to Morgan Freeman for his part in "Million Dollar Baby"

Freeman, a big screen veteran who has had several Oscar nominations for his stellar performances in movies like "Glory," and "The Shawshank Redemption," in the past but never won, receive his long-overdue Oscar for the first time this year in the supporting actor category.

See more Oscar night news on the Back page.



Foxx



Freeman

NEWS BRIEFS

Court Ruling Bans Death Penalty for convicted teen murderers

On Tuesday, March 1, The U.S. Supreme Court rule that the executions of juvenile killers and the ruling death sentence for teen offenders cases will now be barred in the United States.

Due the ruling, convicted teen killer Lee Boyd Malvo will no longer face the death penalty for his involvement in the 2002 Washington sniper case.

Malvo, who was 17 at the time of the shootings, is convicted and sentenced to life in prison without parole for two of the murders. Last October, Malvo pleaded guilty to a killing in Virginia.

The ruling means that Malvo, now 20, is free to give a complete account of his crimes without more punishment being added onto his sentences. According to reports his lawyers have hinted that Malvo may confess to all of

the killings now that the death penalty is out of the question.

2 South Suburban Teens face felony charge in Car-jacking

Two Dolton teens along with a Dolton man will face felony charges in one case, and may be responsible for more than 25 carjackings in Calumet City since August 2004, according to police reports.

William Chatman, 22, 14230 Ellis Ave; Mickey Murff, 17, 14404 Ellis Ave; and Curtis Smith, 19 14328 Minerva Ave are charged with the crime.

Reports said the three allegedly use a gun to threaten drivers and stole their victims' cars to get chrome rims. Police say these Rims can be worth up to \$5,000 a set.

Dolton police are currently investigating the crime, and the three men's bond is set at \$250,000.

High-School board member's school holds meeting to discuss "poor blackie" voicemail

Confusion continues for Suburban

School Board member who denies making alleged racially bias statements about the state of predominately black high schools and students in the suburbs; on a Sun-Times reporter's voice mail.

On Tuesday, March 1, a Sun-Times' reporter receive a voice-mail saying "...I am tired of welfare, tired of the mentality that 'poor blackie' because let's give them a job..." the unidentified message said. The reporter revealed in the Sun-Times investigation her voicemail picked-up a conversation, and her caller ID indicated that Maureen Jagmin, who is white, and a Lincoln Way School Board member, made the call.

The Lincoln-Way High School district board held a special meeting on March 3 to discuss board member Jagmin, and the voicemail that may have came from her phone line, in hopes to rectify racist voice recording about state



John Lee Malvo

of black schools.

Several civil rights activists like Rev. Jesse Jackson, and Rep. Jesse L Jackson (D-III) and Rep. Bobby Rush (D-III) are pushing for Jagmin's resignation, and Jagmin, who maintains she did not make those statements, could not attend the Lincoln meeting that night because she was on vacation.

The Prospect Of Anew



NE File photo

But many have opposing views to this theory of "help"...

An earlier version of an old Englewood

Whitney Helm

Young Women's Leadership
Charter School

The new addition of condos, fire stations, and police stations seeming to just appear over night and construction going on daily, has rendered mixed emotions among the residents of Englewood. Welcoming the change could help improve the community but it has many residents asking if they'd still be around afterwards.

Out with the image of drugs and violence and in with a clean cut image that the city can be proud of. But with this change, comes the comments and even complaints of residents. "I think it's a good idea, because it gives

more people a place to live and it gives to the community" says Nicolas Rogan, 16 a student at Englewood Technical High School.

But many have opposing views to this theory of "help". Some people feel that the changes aren't to help them at all but to provide a way to bring back the old Englewood, an Englewood that was predominantly white. Then what would happen to the blacks that call Englewood home, "They would be quickly shipped off to the suburbs" said Anthony Junior, 16, a student at Englewood High. "I think it's terrible they're trying to move all the blacks out and white in, they're building all the condos and then they're going to raise the prices of the taxes and bring in the white people".

"Gentrification is a long way off, it would take up 30 years." said John Ellis, Prefect of Provenience House, Reverend, Historian, and Englewood resident. "The population isn't strong enough, you would have to build a house every day for years to get back the population that Englewood had over 20 years ago, its simply remodeling" Ellis said.

Whether Gentrification is a possibility or not can only be decided in years to come. Predictions have been varied about the future of Englewood. "I think there isn't going to be anyone but white people living here" said Tory Youngfield, 17, a local teen. "For anyone with concern about them being pushed out, they need to check into it and do their research" says Ellis. But with the

roles possibly being reversed and blacks in the suburbs and whites in the city what would that mean for residents and communities similar to Englewood only time will tell.

Eyevie McHenry

Prosser Career Academy

Five minutes from Chicago Loop, one snake around the Dan Ryan Expressway heading south and the beautiful skylines start to turn into air polluting smokestacks. Further down are boarded up buildings, moss-covered walls, and decay all around. Here lies Englewood, a mere shadow of its former self.

A Fresh New Start

Englewood has become a struggling boiling pot of misfortunes. Chicago has a plan to remedy those problems.



Trolley tracks and paved streets were part of the community.

NE File photo

What was once a highly populated community and the city's second busiest shopping district in the 1960s is now a neighborhood in distress. With the large decline in population and income, a string of gang related occurrences, property values declining, and the housing going down, Englewood has become a struggling boiling pot of misfortunes.

Most people believe that the reasons for the downfall of Englewood is in part due to the racial "turn over" that took place from the 1950s to the 1960s where the community went from predominantly white to 98 percent black.

From the 1960s to the year 2000 Englewood's population declined 17 percent and is still continues to dwindle. Property values have

dropped 10.1 percent since the 1990s.

The income level is also at a depressing rate with 43.8 percent of the population living below the poverty level, 21.6 percent of households living on public assistance, and only 20.4 percent of households have income above \$35, 000 annually.

However, a change is going to come...again. With quite a few failed attempts at rebuilding the neighborhood, Mayor Daley has decided to give Englewood a quarter-of-a-billion dollar makeover including the relocation of Kennedy-King City College, a performing arts center, a television studio for WYCC/Channel 20, and a new Washburne Culinary Institute.

Some people however are

not quite so sure of these "new and improved" changes. Although these new aspects will look good to the neighborhood, with the lack of good schools, recreational centers, and job opportunities, the hope of stopping drug-related activity and alcohol consumption doesn't look very clear.

Having a high violence rate with only a negative 5.3 percent decrease since 2003 Englewood proves just how dangerous of a neighborhood it is to live in. Along with two other neighborhoods, Englewood was responsible for one quarter of Chicago's 598 murders in 2003.

As part of the upcoming "makeover", the demolishing of old run-down buildings, that were once used for prostitution and drug distribution, is going to take

place in order to make room for recreational facilities and newer homes.

Many blacks who are just renting their homes will now become home owners. A training program known as the Bobby L. Rush Center for Community Technology will be established and a business resource center will also be placed in the South Side neighborhood.

With the help of the city, Englewood is going to try yet again to make this once fast-paced neighborhood turned run-down hovel, a reflection of its former glory.

Bush Pushes Plan To Raise Test Scores In High Schools

by **Willine Valentin**
Lane Tech High School

Test evaluation has been used for years to test the skills of students. "I don't like tests, I do really well in the classroom and I do bad on tests," said Natalie Schuldes, 16, Lane Tech.

As President Bush begins to enter his new term, new policies are arising and old ones are being extended as President Bush starts to outline his political agenda.

The infamous No Child Left Behind Act is being outlined as one of the Presidents top priorities during his new term. The President wants to extend the Act in to high schools. The Act would require an assessment test in grades 9, 11, and 12 each year.

According to Editorial projects in Education, Bush will fund the plan with 250 millions dollars.

Those who have criticized the No Child left Behind Act are worried about the effect it will have in high schools, others have concerns of the goals behind the plan.

Many schools are afraid that teaching will be more focused on getting students to pass tests then on learning their subjects.

Many teachers feel that it is unfair that some students who deserve to pass will be held back because they do not pass state assessment test.

"Testing is inefficient. My problem with standardized testing is that I think its biased. I don't know if you can take a size-fits-all test and apply to everyone in the country," said Mrs. Sebestyen, a World Studies teacher at Lane Tech.

Sebestyen expressed concerns that she felt that testing were "often geared towards white kids and refer to things white kids would know and not minorities."

Other concerns include other states that already require students to take standardized tests in their high schools.

Those who have had to already experience the No Child Left Behind Act in their elementary schools have also expressed their concerns of the plan.

"Sometimes students don't test well, sometimes students put down answers by mistake and that can affect their whole score, by a simple mistake. Even in our gifted class the students are sometimes on the wrong section of the answer sheet so they might know a lot more then what comes out of the test. So you can't asses everything from just a test. There should be some input from the

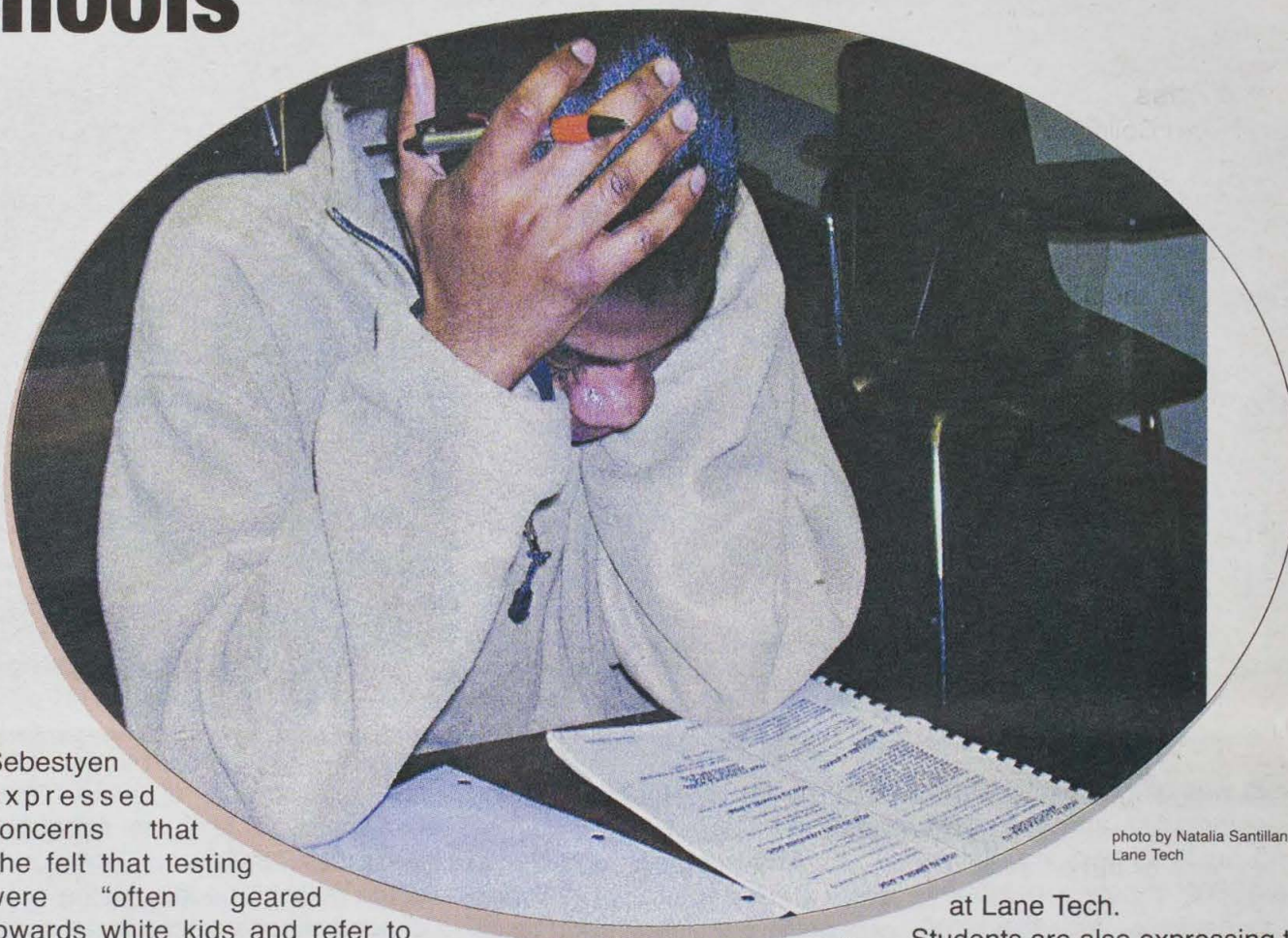


photo by Natalia Santillan,
Lane Tech

teachers. Because the child could be sick that day, he could be an expert on the subject, but not be feeling well and make careless mistakes," said Louise Rzechula, the Principal of Pritzker Elementary School that has had to cope with the new testing guidelines under the No Child Left Behind Act.

Many other teachers feel different about the testing in high schools and just have a problem with the No Child Left Behind Act itself.

"I think the idea behind the law is good, it's just improperly funded. There has to be certain standards. One teacher would say one kid has a B in class and another would say he deserves an A," said Carolyn Quirk, an English teacher

at Lane Tech.

Students are also expressing their disagreement with the new idea of having to take a standard test every year.

"You can be like an 'A' student and still not do well on the test. I think its too many tests; they put too much pressure on kids to do well in tests. Besides regular tests for high schools you have to do like college tests, and the A.C.T, its to much pressure," said Mary Blausey, 18, Lane Tech High School.

Whether the idea of implanting standard tests in high schools for students to take every year is a good idea or not, students in grades 9-11 will most likely be forced to take a standard test every year, including the ones they may already have to take.



Upping the Price on School Lunches

by **Devin Ross**

Walter Payton College Prep

Many Chicago Public School students depend on the school system to supply them their meals for them every morning and afternoon. Now that dependence price has changed. The CPS school system has decided to raise the prices of school meals.

On January 24, 2005, the CPS board issued a press release talking of the price raise for school meals to come. The press release states that of the 309,000 students who are served a school meal, only about 44,000 students will be affected by the price change. This is because these CPS students pay full price for lunches, while the rest pay a reduced price or have free lunches.

According to the press release, the school meals will increase by 50 cents. This means that high school lunches will now cost \$1.60, while elementary school lunches will cost \$1.35. Breakfast at all CPS schools will now cost \$1.00.

The price of CPS school meals hasn't risen since 1989. The board says that the price raise was necessary to keep up with the rising labor and food costs. Some students think that the board should find another way of keeping up with the costs. One student is Leo Reyes, a freshman at Whitney Young College Prep. He believes that the schools' vending machines have kept up with the cost demands.

"Well, my school's vending machines did the trick for the longest, but now that the board



Graphic by Thomas Cooper Thorndale

ordained that the food be healthy, not many people are buying as much as before," said Reyes, 14. Arne Duncan, CPS Chief Executive Officer has said that despite the price raise, students are still getting a very good value for the price. Students at schools getting lunches everyday have disagreed with this statement.

"It's the same bad food, for even higher prices," Reyes said.

Another freshman from Walter Payton College Prep agrees with Reyes.

"I don't think the price raise is fair. The food is horrible and you have to pay more to get something decent," said Kaila Edwards, 14. Megan Daniels, 14, also agrees.

"The food is okay for \$1.60, but I'm sure it could be better," said Daniels, also a freshman at Payton College Prep.

These statements show that many students don't feel that they are getting the best quality foods for the money they are paying. Could the quality of the food be greater, for what students are paying?

Some of the 2004-2005 goals of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) include converting the schools that receive pre-packaged goods into on-site warming or full service kitchens, increase the number of students getting breakfast at school every morning and input new healthy

snack and beverage policies. The main mission of the programs that provide students with meals is to feed the students "nutritious and appealing meals".

Rachael King, a freshman at Lincoln Park High School, doesn't find this statement to be true.

"The food is old; greasy, nasty, and it is the same type of fast food every week. It's not healthy food, like fresh salad or fresh sandwiches," said King. "It isn't appealing because of all that."

The new prices of the school meals are still below the prices of other Illinois school districts, and are in the same category of the prices in large urban districts in the country.

The Faces of NE!

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The Deterioration Of John Hope

by **Tywanna Lesley**

John Hope College Prep High School

For several years the leaky and molded ceilings of John Hope College Prep have been deteriorating and the Board of Education has yet to take action. Just recently the gym floor has started to deteriorate also.

"John Hope has been run down since the eighth grade. When I first got to John Hope the ceilings weren't leaking, but it was still kind of run down." said 16-year-old Charlene Thompson, Junior at John Hope.

In almost every classroom, either the plaster is falling off or the tile of the ceilings is missing and exposing everyone to isolation and mold, which isn't a very healthy learning environment. Many students have had the water drip on their skin and face, which could lead to skin problems and many students becoming sick.

Michelle Williams, a 15-year-old sophomore, said "I became sick a day or two after water, from the leaky ceiling, dripped on my head. My body was aching and my eyes started to hurt and I had a fever. The left side of my face swelled up. I went to the doctor and I was told that I had flu symptoms. My doctor told me that one of her patients was sick also and their school was being shut down because more than half the students were sick."

The leaky water caused the

gym floor to swell and break apart and the upshot of this is students can't participate in their gym classes. The students are being deprived of one of their mandatory classes. There's no possible way that students can play basketball, exercise, or just enjoy themselves in gym class without tripping or getting injured due to the broken wood. Therefore, it was mandatory for the gym teachers to stop gym class because it is now a hazard.

The leaky ceilings in the classrooms have caused many teachers to have class in the school cafeteria. Not only are students becoming sick due to the deterioration of the school, but they are also being deprived of their education. Students cannot receive a proper education in the school's cafeteria. Some teachers even have to share classrooms because of this issue. Not only is this detrimental to the students, but to the teachers also. The teachers affected by this no longer have the luxury of having their own classroom.

Some classrooms that aren't affected by the leaky ceilings will be if something isn't done soon. In some classrooms that aren't leaking yet, you can see the water starting to seep through the tiles.

"Getting to and from each class, you may have to switch

your normal route because the pales that are used to catch the dripping water are in the way of you getting to class," said 15 year old sophomore, Shakita Thomas.

Thomas and numerous administrators at John Hope said that the Board of Education promised the school a new roof about three years ago. However, the Board has yet to fulfill that promise.

"We need to do something about it and get more parents and the media involved, then the Board might take us more seriously. They might think that it's just a roof leak, but if we get more involvement then something will be done about it," said Thomas.

The students, as well as the administrators, are concerned about the school and the health of the students. The students feel as if the board should take action and that the school has been dilapidated for far too long. Many students have "conveniently" gotten sick ever since the leakiness of the roof has worsened. The students recently protested about the school's conditions to show The Board of Education that they were very serious about this issue and that they should be also.

The students were protesting at 7:00 in the morning to about 9:30 in the morning. The student's

drive and determination were a success. Channel 7 news was at the school and took pictures of the students holding signs. The student's goals were to get the Board of Education's attention and they might've succeeded.

Heidi Igbo, 15 years old sophomore said, "The reason for the protest was to show that the students are concerned about the problems and want it to get fixed. It was a success because the Board of Education has sent people out to the school to fix our gym floors, but so far the roof wasn't as successful.

According to channel seven news, the Board's response was that they were aware of the school's conditions and they will tend to it when the weather will allow it.

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COLLEGE DAYS

Taking a Stand with Affirmative Action

by **Amanda Jones**

John Hope College Prep.

"I think Affirmative Action is necessary to be fair in order to equalize the level of inequality in class, economic status, and schools", says Dario Paria, 17, a Hispanic senior at John Hope College Prep.

In the Supreme Court decision on the University of Michigan lawsuit (*Gratz v. Bollinger*, an issue in the admission to the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and *Grutter v. Bollinger* in the admission of the law school, both of whom was qualified-Gratz who was a resident of Michigan and Grutter who had a LSAT score of 161) a little more than two years ago, Monday December 22, 2003, it was decided that race can be used as a factor in college admissions programs but not the main factor in deciding whether what people are accepted to colleges.

The students were suing the University of Michigan on the basis of reverse discrimination on the violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendments regarding the point system used by the university in admitting applicants. In the point system that took race

into account used at the University, more points were given out to persons of other ethnicity in certain areas, along with athletes, children of alumni, and men in nursing programs also given extra points for consideration in admission.

The court's decision will heavily affect the nation along with secondary, primary, private, and public higher learning institutions in trying to comply with affirmative action laws without using ethnicity as a factor in college admissions. Erich Somen, 17, a white student who attends Lincoln Park High School feels, "Affirmative Action in college admissions is not justified because people can get into a college not because of their grades, but just because they are a certain ethnicity, when other people more deserving can't get in because they're a different race".

"In top colleges and universities, they have to be selective in order to admit the highly ranked students. The students who are accepted are not admitted because of color", says Keith Todd, the Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Northwestern University. "We have to be careful to permit a good number of minorities since we want that diversity in our school", says Todd.

"Affirmative Action historically has an important role", says Larine Cowan, the Director of Affirmative Action at UIC. At UIC affirmative action is used to ensure that there are equal opportunities for all even though there are not extra points given out in their admissions system for minority applicants as it was brought out in the University of Michigan case.

"Some factors UIC look at are student contributions, public service, and scholarship", says Cowan. "I believe affirmative action currently serves as a positive role in our country, when used properly it can equalize and provide opportunities to break barriers".

Justine Gotangco, 17, a Filipino student also at Lincoln Park High School, shares some views of some teenagers today.

"Admissions should be based more on academics and involvement in school activities. All colleges should be diverse, but affirmative action should depend on whether or not the school needs more diversity".

"At Western Illinois there are four primary areas where compliance to the laws of Affirmative Action is extremely necessary", informed Kathy Couza, Director of Affirmative Action. "They are:

Employment Monitoring, Policy Development and Monitoring, the Disability Act, and Training and Education. This college admissions program does not factor in race as a deciding factor, therefore is not affected by the University of Michigan decision," says Couza. She expressed how they evaluate G.P.A transcripts and test scores when considering applicants for admissions. "No extra points are given".

"Columbia has open access and opportunities", says Micki Levinthal, the Media Relation Directors at Columbia College. "We accept a wide range of students here at Columbia College", said Levinthal.

"With the elimination of quotas, colleges now are supposed to look at students individually," says Todd. "I support affirmative action because it is important to use to make sure a wide range of students are brought into colleges."

"I believe that Affirmative Action is not such a good thing because it makes it seem like students are unable to be accepted into college based on their own merit," says Jennifer Gipson, seventeen years old, African American senior that attends John Hope College Preparatory High School.

Youth Communication's

*New Expression Newsmagazine for Chicago Teens
Wants your stories about...*

Multicultural NE Sweet 16



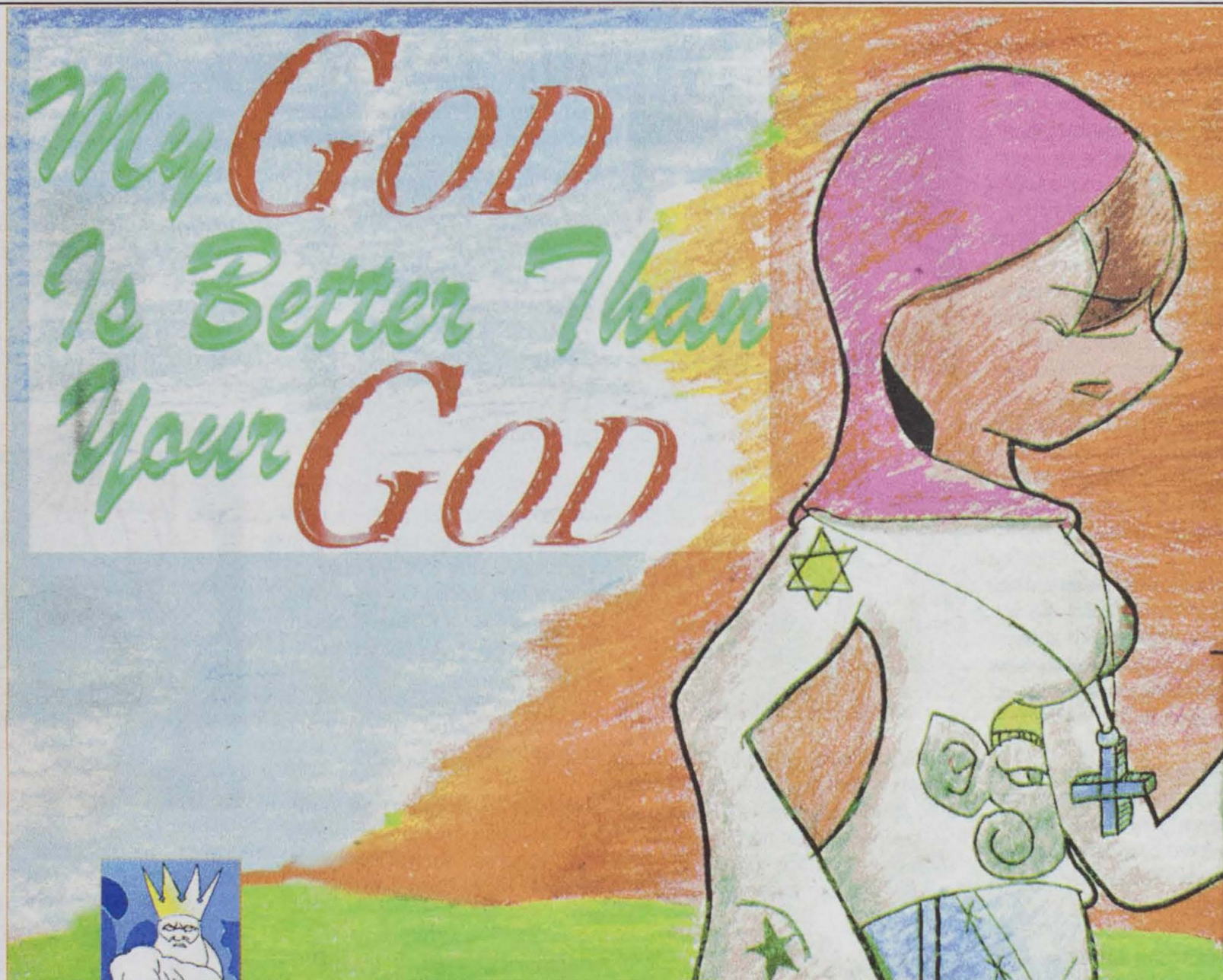
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Teens of different Religion backgrounds explain their beliefs and talk about their experiences through point of views

Religion is completely different depending on each person. You have extremist and then there are the people who don't even know what their religion is, or those who follow their parent's religion.

Each person interprets religion differently, and many teens do not understand all religious tradition in the same manner. Many teens may feel that by displaying their beliefs they will be seen as extremist or they see that others stereotype their faith.

Rithea Houy, a 17-year-old Buddhist said "my opinion on religion as a whole is you can believe in what you want to believe but as long as you don't interfere with others."

The only time Houy said he has felt prejudice for his religion is

when a missionary came up to him on the train and told him he was going to hell unless he converted. Rithea explained that "people see Buddhism as a soft core religion and that's what it is, we don't try to convert people," Houy said.

Buddhism is the forth-largest religion in the world; it has two main forms; Theravada and Mahayana. Theravada is mainly located in Thailand, Burma, Cambodia and Laos, while Mahayana is located in China, Japan, Korea, Tibet and Mongolia. Buddhist believe that after death you are reincar-

nated, which means born again, you will continue to do this until you loose attachment or desire to ones self then you will fine nirvana. The three practices in Buddhism are Sila: virtue, good conduct, morality; Samadhi: concentration, meditation, self development; and Prajna: Discernment, insight, wisdom and enlightenment.

Rithea talked about a missionary trying to convert him and the stereotype with missionaries is that they judge everyone to hell.

Keziah Montgomery, 18, is an Evangelical Protestant, whose

parents are both missionaries said, "people think church is all about Christianity, but it's so much more."

"People always say when they are rebuked, that Christians aren't supposed to judge, but there's a big difference between judging and rebuking," Montgomery said,

Montgomery said judging condemns the person and rebuking is condemning an action. She says she feels prejudice from others whenever she is trying to do something for her church.

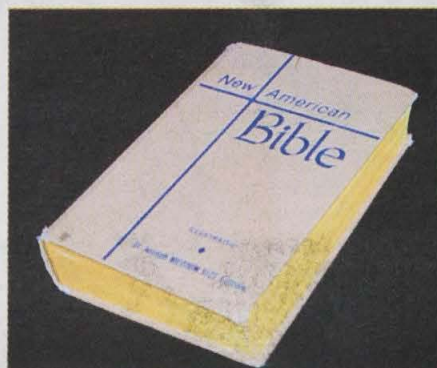
You build a personal relationship with God and living your life for him." Keziah admits to not always being the perfect Christian but she does try, she says she'll mess up sometime but no one is perfect.

Montgomery's opinion on others religion is "It is everyone's choice to believe what they believe, but I honestly believe that anyone who doesn't believe in Jesus Christ will not be saved."

Although her faith tells her that God is the one and only, and those who believe in Christ will be saved she will not judge other religions who don't follow her beliefs.

"I think everyone should respect other people's beliefs, but that doesn't mean its ok in what they believe. I'm not going to judge someone for being a Wicca believer, but I do believe they are wrong. I'll still accept them for who they are," Montgomery explained.

Both Keziah and Rithea may not see eye to eye with one another on religion, but both do respect each other for what they believe in.



NE Staff

Rithea said, "They're (Other religions) are close to mine."

One of the branches in Rithea's faith is Sila, or reciprocity, and this is also a major rule in Christianity, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

While discovering the values and morals of Buddhism and how its religion is maintained being separated from the aspects of Wicca, the Jewish religion has its separation points, which identifies their beliefs and also their religion.

Marissa Maile, a 14-year-old student at Taft high school is a whole-hearted believer in the Jewish religion.

Maile was born into the Jewish religion by faith and was considered leaving the Jewish faith.

"When I was teased about being Jewish I told my mom and she told me that was more of a reason to be Jewish so for that reason I chose to stay in the Jewish religion," said Maile.

"Reformers act like Catholics are awesome because they act like Catholics but they are apart of the Jewish religion," Maile

said. "We don't believe Jesus is God's son but we do believe that Jesus was a prophet,"

Arthur Krazewski, 17, is Old Catholic who is currently a junior at Taft High School.

"I think everyone is equal because we all believe in God," Krazeski said. "Religious people have the right to believe in what they want to believe in."

"The only difference in our faith due to other religions is we have pope and we also believe a priest can forgive sins and we also believe that Jesus Christ is God our savior," said Krazeski about the differences of his faith from others.

Krazweski has never considered leaving the Catholic faith.

"I don't ever plan to change my faith because I have high hopes of growing up into my faith because I was born Catholic," Krazweski said.

Webster Miles is Pen Costal believer who separates himself from all religions because he believes that all other religions couldn't catch his interest.

"When I first found god I didn't believe in other religious beliefs because god said one thing in the bible and all the other religions went by their own beliefs and added to god beliefs," Miles said. "I was on a journey to find the truth."

When Miles was in the 4th grade he was stabbed in the neck with a pencil by a bully that was two grades older than him.

"Going through that reaction when the led from the pencil went inside of me, I found god. I prayed to God and he changed my life around," Miles said. "In being a Pen Costal, I believe I have found a place for me to love and respect God without feeling like I am miss believing him and being comfortable to represent God in a manner able way."



Illus.: J. Hall(Crane)



Christians are usually stereotyped by others who believe that Christians take The Holy Bible word for word, but believers in the faith like Keziah

Montgomery say she struggles with faith everyday.

Do You have questions about Religion?

Do You want to find out more about what values you believe in and where do you fall?

Here is a website that could help you figure where you are in faith.

It's a site that breaks down different religions around the world

www.beliefnet.org.

Take the "Belief-O-Matic test" to find out what religion you are more like.

Jesus Going Mainstream

by **Phylecia Thompson**
Lake View High School

He's been in movies, television, radio, the internet, and you've seen the image used to bring in millions of dollars to businesses, but is this image being used in the mainstream media without caution. Who is he? His name is Jesus Christ.

With the image of the biblical Jesus plastered on paraphernalia, people like Calicia Smith, a Junior at Lake View High School, want to know if this is a positive thing or not.

"People like gospel music sensation Kirk Franklin, and 'American Idols' Ruben Studdard are pushing religion in the mainstream, said Smith, who is glad to see the growth of the Christian faith in the media.

"It's putting him (Jesus) in a secular setting. It's taking him to a new height."

But other teenagers have other opinions on the issue like Raul Andrade, a senior from Lake View High school, said that God's name should not be presented in anything, and feels it is "wrong to be placed into the media."

According to Sister Helena Burns, of the Pauline Books and Media, said the rise of Christianity into the media started in the late 1990's, and in the 1970's the idea of God was very unpopular. Burns bookstore is a religious goods store that sells items for those interested in religious items.

"The image of God or Jesus wasn't quite seen in the media, or a topic seen in the news," Burns said talking of the first time she saw the image of Jesus used as a merchandise product was two years ago in a music magazine called Rolling Stone.

Burns said in the magazine was a fashion shoot dedicated to Jesus, and she said one of the first companies that brought the image of Jesus outside of the religious goods shops was Teenage Millionaire.

Teenage Millionaire is a pop culture, clothing brand based in Los Angeles, Calif. Two T-shirt slogans Teenage Millionaire is highly known for producing is "Jesus is my homeboy," and "Mary is my homegirl."



Illustration by Jesse Hall, Crane

Creative Director and partner of Teenage Millionaire, Dougie Williams, said "Jesus is my homeboy" is a street term created for teenagers to relate to, and the shirts is for teens to relate to with religion. Williams said Christian related products are marketed to people ages 16 to 24.

"It's a good and bad thing. The language is good. It shows 'Jesus is our Friend'. It's like the business is pushing the moral standard," Smith said.

Yovonne Leo, Manager of Pauline Books and Media explained that wearing the Christian related merchandise is a good thing, because people are showing their faith.

"People wear it for a reason; people can wear it for a good reason, to bring their own agenda. It's something you believe, and can share with another human being," Leo said.

Religious store manager believe some companies have gone too far with using the image of Jesus in merchandise.

Williams stated that companies such as Urban Outfitters would sell shirts stating "Jesus Shave", or "Jesus drives a hot rod" use to bother him, because they were only using the image to make off what

Teenage Millionaire created.

The biggest reason for the rise of Christian related products from teenagers, is because of the use from celebrities in Hollywood wearing the merchandise.

"What teens wear, other teens will wear it. It's like mad. It's without a reason. It's the nature of the market. When it's promoted, there's a tendency to follow it. To wear it for a fashion statement," Leo said.

Celebrities like Damon Waynes, Pamela Anderson, Jessica Simpson, and Ashton Kutcher have been known to wear the merchandise that is Christian related, and these celebrities are known to bring great influences to teenagers said Leo.

To some, celebrities are wearing religious products, and displaying their faith for publicity and to gain more. This has lead to controversy to the issue. Williams said that celebrities like to identify themselves with a positive image.

Television shows such as "Touched By an Angel," "Joan of Arcadia," "Point Pleasant," and "7th Heaven," are highly displaying the image of Christianity on network television, and It is also known as a big influence among teenagers, regardless of the topic on the television program is religious or not.

As television recap on religious views, there is also a negative side to it. One of the problems teenagers and adults see in these shows is stereotypes.

Smith stated shows such as "The Parkers" stereotypes preachers and the church. Outside of Christianity and into other religions shows such as "24" stereotype a typical Muslim family as terrorists, shows such as "The Simpsons" and "South Park" puts irony on the subject of religion.

"It's controversial from what I think. Christian tradition is not often mixed with hip hop, but this is not the same generation as before. Every generation has their own culture," Smith said, and the image of Jesus leads into the modern era due to the media. For Christians of now, and before this leads

Cont'd on Pg.16

Recent Natural Disasters: Is Judgement Day On the Way?

By Aliy Markowski

Devastation has struck the world through the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives in the recent natural disasters around the globe. The death toll has risen to almost 300,000 in the tragic tsunami that hit Asia in December, and that catastrophe is only one of many that have recently caused mass destruction and fatalities. Across the world, other nations have seen similar tragedies in the form of flooding, earthquakes, and mudslides. After the shock of such calamities, many begin to search for reasons or causes. While scientists believe that the explanation lies in science and physical changes in the Earth's crust and atmosphere, many others have looked to religion for an answer beyond the realm of science.

"There are some phenomenons that we just don't understand," said Reverend George Daniels, Senior Pastor of the First Baptist

Congregational Church in Chicago.

Following the recent Asian tsunami in December 2004, countless survivors and spectators around the world began to ask themselves why such unfortunate events had taken so many lives. Many religious followers were faced with the difficult question of whether the all-powerful God had control over the disaster, and if so, then why he had would have created such destruction.

"It's hard for me to understand why God would have chosen to do this when it would result in so many lives lost," said Lindsay Partridge, a sophomore at St. Ignatius College Prep.

Uncertainty and curiosity have led some individuals to question their good faith in God as their plaguing questions remain unanswered.

"It sometimes makes me wonder if there is a God," said Lindsay Partridge. "Things like this make it really hard to be faithful."

For others, however, the recent disasters provide motivation to strengthen their faith.

"I didn't get the sense of doom and fatality as much as I saw the disaster as an opportunity," said Jennifer Toms, a sophomore at Northside College Prep High School who is actively involved in Edgebrook Covenant Church youth group. "It gave the world a chance to grow together and contributed to the development of world aid and community."

Many Christians believe that the disasters were, in fact, God-sent with a purpose. In the bible, Jesus warns mankind that "there will be famines and earthquakes in various places" (Matthew 24:6-8) before Jesus' second coming and judgment day for all of God's children. Many Christians believe that according to this passage, the numerous recent natural disasters are indications that the end of the world may be near.

"There was a tsunami in Asia, avalanche in Colorado, and mud-

slide in California all within a span of two weeks," said Ewelina Rabicka, a junior at Fremd High School. "There are so many natural disasters I'm beginning to think the end of the world may really be coming."

Many Christians, however, are unsure that these natural disasters truly signify that Judgment day is fast-approaching. Some believe that within the tragedies lie lessons to be learned.

"As a Christian, I believe that everything does happen for some reason and we can all learn something from all the events that occur over our lifetimes," said Jennifer Toms. "And the recent wave of disasters is no different."

"We know that there are many disasters on this earth," said Reverend Daniels. "But we cannot uniquely tie them to the end of the world. The bible does say that at the end of the world their will be earthquakes, but nobody can just pinpoint."

Photo Opinion/ by Natalia Santillan
Lane Tech

Do you think there is an end to the world and if so, do you think that these recent natural disasters like the tsunami are a work of God?



Karina Verga, 16 year old
"Yes, I do think there is an end of the world because other people like us destroy each other. In religious terms, yes, there will be an end to the world because God will end up punishing us for our sins. In non-religious terms, global warming will cause the end of the world."



Rachel Hagfors, 16 year old
"No, I don't think there is an end to the world. I don't believe there will be an end to population. I don't think there will ever be destruction with great enough a force to end the world. I do, however believe in reincarnation."



Robert Leventopolous, 15 year old
"I believe that the world will end, and soon too. I predict that a few years after the pope dies the world will fall at the hands of man and nature combined. World War III isn't that far off. It is only a matter of time until there is a nuclear holocaust, and when there is, the fire of the apocalypse will hit. Not only that but Mother Nature is angry



Gerardo Trejo, 15 year old
"Yes, I do think that the world will eventually end. Naturally: I don't think it'll end like The Bible says; with beast and stuff like that. I think that the world will end naturally with tsunamis and with what happened in California. Wars will definitely occur and those might bring us closer to the end."



Joseph Sweda, 16 year old
"Is it the end of the world? No, the world slash earth will not die even when the sun dies out and explodes. Only life would die. The earth would always be around, whether the sun has died on us. This whole question of the world ending is too broad and over exaggerated. When talking about all life, that is a new question. ur minds."

Essay Contest

Should Religion Play A Role In Government?

Essay Contest #4

First Place

James K. Castillo

Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep Academy
Ms. Evelyn Murdock

Should Religion play a role in Government?

How can such a simple question cause such controversy? The truth of the matter is that this very question has riddled government workers, judges, lawyers, and the average American ever since it was first asked. There are so many opinions on the subject, but like it or not, religion should and does not play a role in government, and it would destroy the confidence of our leaders and upset traditions that in which Americans have partaken for generations.

The current president of the United States, George W. Bush is unashamed to admit how he begins his day in prayer. Each morning, the United States Congress begins with a prayer. The Presidential Inauguration begins and concludes with a prayer. Why is this? Prayer and dedication to God serves to legitimize the proceedings that will happen. A belief in God strengthens people and gives our leaders confidence to stand up for that which is right, just as religion does. Finally, religion provides solace when things do not go as planned or in times of trouble, just as the incredible resurgence of spirituality after September 11.

All of that sounds good, but why is all the controversy existent? It is evident that people have a clear error in the concept of God. Some people would say that when elected officials talk about God, they mean Judeo-Christian God or Jesus. However, God is a multi-religious concept and each person can take the word God to mean Yahweh, Jesus, Allah or any of the god's person worships,

Unfortunately, many people do not share this view of God, which is the root of the controversy, but whatever Americans agree or disagree with religion playing a role in government, it does

Second Place

March Essay Contest

Adolfo Salentin Martinez

Carl Schurz High School
Teacher: Amy Puertas

Gover God

Imagine if one day you woke up, turned on you're your television and discovered that total proof that one religion is the only real one came on the screen. There would be total chaos. Hearts full of frustration and denial would be unleashed into the streets until only the echoes of broken souls quenched the earth; this same

routine could be presented with the justification for allowing religions to interfere with politics.

There is no way that this idea could ever become a reality with the presumption of a dictatorship passing the minds of all Americans. I know this simply by understanding that religion is not something that can be done away with or even compromised in the least bit.

Politicians would illogically attempt to convert all the nation as it see fit while a fierce and compelling story of how the world will be unfolded slowly grew in the outskirts of redemption. America would fall victim to the ignorant and illusive way of life so many other great nation have, that of holy wars.

The basis of politics has always been to accept you as who you are and try to make laws that don't obstruct the passage that leads from you to your faith of choice. If this is sympathetic standard is demolished, what direction can a loving mother leave her child? Maybe thus us a question that a politician with so much paperwork doesn't have time for or just can't comprehend.

There is an intense amount of beauty ad spirituality that having a religion can offer that makes the whole politic idea even worth it and now politics is going to try and over run what made it! In conclusion, having a specific religion govern all others is dictating, depressing and inconceivable.

Third Place

March Essays Contest:

Should religion play a role in government? Why or Why Not?

Helton Siqueira

Carl Schurz High School
Teacher: Amy Puertas

I do not think that religion should be part of the government. First, it is in The Constitution that this country you have the freedom of religion therefore it the government gets involved it would intercept with many if not all religions.

Since not everybody in the government is the same religion, it would also cause problems within the government itself thus leading to nothing but chaos of the government continues to deteriorate this nation from what it once was- freedom.

It seems to me that nowadays more and more does the U.S. Government attempt to take control of everything and anything in its path. How are we to know rather or not the government will try to completely manipulate people's minds and opinions over religion and change their way of life as they are doing to the people of Iraq?

What if they enforce only one religion that compromises with the other religions and then just enforce that one very strictly.

Religion is more of a family thing taught from generation to generation and should be kept with in the families. The government should not and cannot tell people how to live their lives and what to believe in. Because if they do, wouldn't the U.S. be going against the reason why it was formed is he first place. Wasn't the U.S. established because one country became too powerful and the people did not want the government controlling their lives?

It seems to me that America is not fully living up to its original promises.

April Essay Question:

Do you feel high schools prepare you for college education admission testing, (ACT, PSAT, etc). Explain why or why not. Also, do you believe these test are proof of what a student can do beyond high school?

Deadline Saturday, March 19th or before

Essays must be 200-300 words. The top three essays will be reprinted in the April Edition of NE. Winners will receive \$100, \$50, \$25 respectively. All entries must be received by deadline. No late entries will be accepted. If possible, send a picture of yourself along with your essay.

All entries must include:

Full name
Home address
Home phone
School Name, and grade

Teachers name, if the essay was assigned in class

All entries must be typed, and/or submitted by email, 3.5 floppy disk, or CD.

Please submit a printed version of your **essay**.

Mail to:

New Expression Essays
600 S. Michigan Avenue.
Chicago, Illinois 60605

editor@youth-comm.org:

Make subject line: "April -NE Essay Contest"

A Morality Plague Hits America Voters, Confuses Judgment On Issues



by **Willine Valentin**
Lane Tech H.S.

These last elections between President Bush and Sen. John Kerry prove as an example of a growing society that is either beginning to place more importance or simply remain focused on maintaining religious figures or supporting what is seen as morally valued.

Many wonder why voters listed moral values as their number one choice for voting Bush into office, and putting the issue of Iraq at the bottom. Voters chose Bush, a staunch Republican who did not support gay marriage, stem cell research, or anti-abortion. Many ask, "how, a society seen as more liberal on many issues could have chosen Bush?"

With Supreme Court justices retired and the President appointing new ones, who will obviously not be atheist, it seems as if America is headed into a conservative direction. This country is so deeply rooted in the separation of church and state, yet it is obvious that they

would never allow an atheist an office.

Living in Illinois, a mostly democratic state, it was interesting to see how demographics plays such a big role in determine the outcome of an election. Polls showed that city dwellers voted more for the democrat Kerry and those of rural demographics voted for Bush.

Being a conservative, in a liberal state you are seen as an outsider. If you don't support a women's right to choose, stand for gay rights, or the killing potential forms of life (stem cell research) you can be seen as a homo-phoebe. What about giving debates relating sex orientation, non-supported abolishment of slavery, and the one who regards no care at all for the use of murderous or immoral technology to cure patients?

Although when looking at the polls and at the outcome of the election, I realize that being a conservative isn't so bad, and saying that I would've voted for Bush over moral issues isn't so bad either, but I realized that we weren't left with much option in presidential selection from a much leftist republican to a far right democrat.

Standing up for my beliefs as a conservative by liberal politically socialized students, I was told that I was called a homo-phoebe. After much debate over the morality of abortion, which I was opposed to,

one fellow classmate told me that she hoped I got raped, so I could see if I would still feel the same way, because I did not support their beliefs.

As one who believes in the respect of people's opinions, class discussions demonstrated to me the much-discussed political divide between beliefs. This is an example of the serious tone one simple class discussion can take with such a passionate America. Never had I seen so much hostility, hate, passion, and motivation and deep belief for a presidential election.

Although Bush had driven up unemployment, brought us into a war under false pretenses, and drastically driven up our budget, the fact that Moral values was more of a concern then terrorism on our front will seize to puzzle me.

Looking at America now I observe how even though drugs, lies, adultery, hate, war and all the other evil or immoralities of this world continues, many Americans will still go to church at least once a year, or keep it to holidays, struggle to keep lent, and still try to proclaim that they prioritize morality while overlooking reality

Jesus in the Mainstream from pg.13
to controversy.

Even Williams believes people have to find their own sources of religion outside of the television, and merchandising, stating the "Jesus is our homeboy" is only the

tip of iceberg for a teenager to become interested in religion.

"We're going to have to see in the next ten years," said Smith, stating she does not know if it is going to be a fad or not.

"All of us go through fazes like this, and all of us reacts differently," said Leo, stating that teenagers will always have a time to look at the views of religion in their own way.



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3. Gender: ☐ Female | ☐ Male
4. School/organization where you pick up NE: _____
5. Rate your interest in the sections below? [Rate as 1(high), 2(OK), and 3(low) in each box]

Cover & other features	News	Entertainment	Business/
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7. Why do you read NE?
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☐ I like that I can read articles written by teens about Chicago teens
☐ Because it is easy to pick up the newspaper at my school
 Other: _____

After reading the statements, circle the comment that best describes your position:

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10. Additional comments on NE including what you would change:

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Book Review



NE Photo File

Lori Moody
Curie High School

Title of Book: *Define "Normal"*

Enter the world of Antonia, an overachiever with perfect grades, and every quality a teacher would love to have in a student. Then there's Jasmine "Jazz" Luther, a punker who follows no one's rules but her own. In a new peer counseling program at Antonia's school, she learns that she's supposed to be actually peer counseling Jazz Luther, the psycho punker that everyone tries to avoid. Antonia grows to dislike the meeting with Jazz. They seem to have nothing in common, and besides their getting nowhere in their encounters. You could just look at them and see the differences. Antonia is quite "Normal" compared to Jazz Luther. But soon they found out that they might have more in common than they think. Jazz has an inborn talent. Antonia teaches her to be proud of what she has, and there's nothing to be ashamed of doing something you love.

As Antonia faces personal problems with her family, she finds Jazz Luther a person that she could lean on for support in her time of need. What is normal? This very book might change the reader's definition of what you might think normal is. In Julie Anne Peters' book, she tries to tell us that it is not what we look like on the outside, but what our character can show us who we truly are. This is a great read and I recommend it to anyone who's interested.



Not All Leprechauns And Shamrocks: The Truth Behind St. Patrick's Day

by **Katie Burman,**
Lincoln Park High School

A crowd of green-wearers, many with a beer in their hand or a shamrock balloon, all cheering and laughing to the tune of Celtic music is the typical scene of the annual Saint Patrick's Day parades across the country.

Irish-Americans as well as countless others show up bright and early for the celebration. But what exactly is being celebrated? Is there a speech about Irish immigrants' contributions to the U.S.? Is it a ceremony to honor this mysterious Saint Patrick?

Some feel that the way this holiday is celebrated in America does not serve a purpose, but has the side effect of keeping negative Irish stereotypes alive.

It is not hard to identify common stereotypes of Irish people. When asked what three words first come to mind about Irish people.

"Potatoes, drinking and angry people," said Bryan Hickey, 15, of St. Ignatius High School.

Hickey is half Irish and attends the South Side St. Pat's Day Parade every year.

"If ethnicity comes up in conversation, I do get teased, like being some wild, angry, potato-lover," Hickey admits. "It's not only around St. Patrick's Day though."

The Irish, like all new immigrant groups who came into America, were discriminated against and made fun of. The Irish were tar-

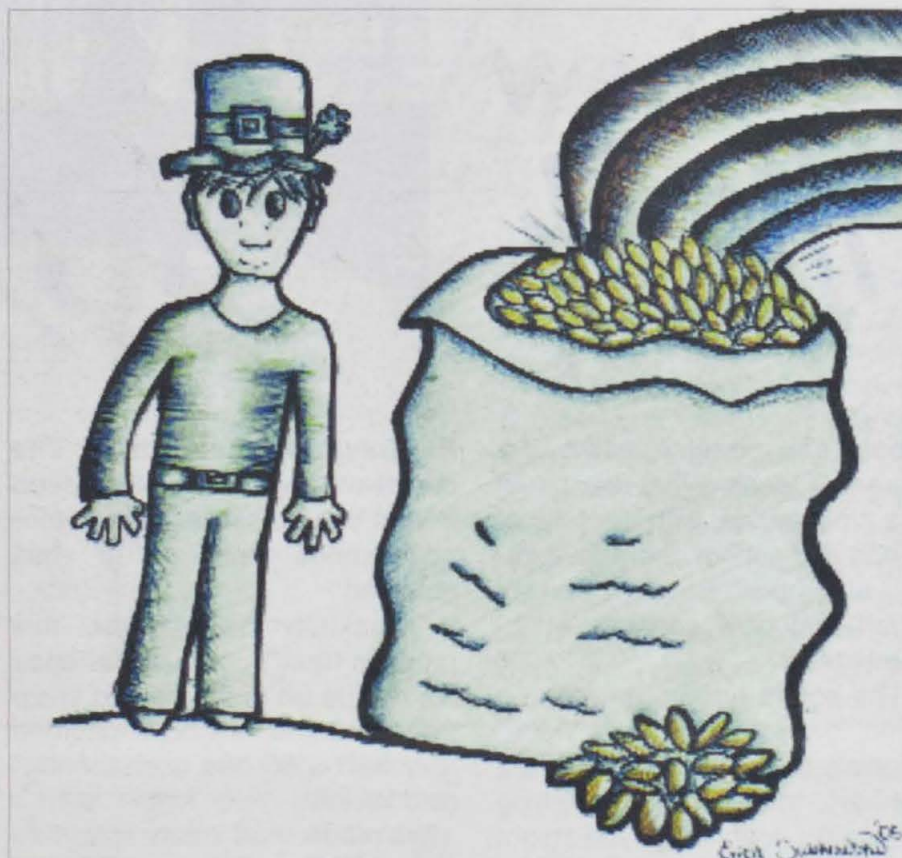


Illustration by Erica Subkowski, Taft

geted for their extreme poverty and their Catholic religion. This is where the stereotype of the whiskey-drinking, hot-tempered, red-haired Irish person began. Prejudiced groups took the characteristics of a few and applied them to the entire group.

David Pfest, 17, Lincoln Park High School has a grandmother from Ireland. She tells him stories from her childhood there, and yet Pfest does not know the original purpose of Saint Patrick's Day to the Irish people. Like Hickey, he's always thought of it as a day to "wear green and go to parades."

So who was this Patrick, and why does he have his own holiday? Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He is revered for

converting the people of Ireland to Christianity in the A.D. 400s. In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is mostly a religious holiday, honored by special church ceremonies and community gatherings. In America, it is mostly a secular or non-religious holiday. It is a day for parties and parades. Today, more the 100 U.S. cities hold parades on or around March 17.

Dillon Gray, 17, Lincoln Park High School, represents a large number of people who pay no attention to St. Patrick's Day. Though Gray is part Irish, he remains "indifferent to the day." However, Gray has friends who do get excited about the celebration.

"They get really into it, and they are less Irish than I am," Gray

said, and he does not see March 17th as a significant holiday, but "an excuse for people to party."

Shannon Romanski, a psychology teacher at Lincoln Park High School, takes St. Patrick's as "a day of fun, not a serious holiday." She said that her Irish grandmother is offended by Irish stereotypes but that St. Patrick's Day is not to blame.

"It's only in America that we play it up," Romanski said. "Besides, everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's Day." Side Bar- to accompany story: St. Patrick's Day Is For Everyone!

St. Patrick's Day Events

Chicago goes Celtic

The Downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade
Saturday, March 12
12 p.m.

Starting off on Columbus, between Balbo, and Jackson Blvd.

St. Pat's Southside Style
South Side Irish Parade
Sunday, March 13
12 p.m.

Starting at 103rd St. and Western Ave, going South to 115th Street.

2 Cool St Patty's treats everyone loves

-When the Chicago river flows green. Chicago was the first city to start dyeing the river green tradition.

Taste like St. Patty's Day! We anticipate it all year. Yes the McDonald Shamrock Shake is back for a short time. It's green, it's cold, and the mint taste reminds you of four leaf clovers.

Hip-Hop turns dra'madik

by **Vincent Dixon**
Gwendolyn Brooks College
Preparatory Academy

As Hip-Hop artists, such as Beyonce Knowells, Ciara, and Usher Raymond, wow most of us once they hit the stage with fancy foot workings and intense body motions, fans such as the teenage members of the south side dance group, Dra'madik, are left wanting to learn the moves they see and try them out for themselves.

From rap and graffiti to break-dancing and DJ'ing, Hip-Hop has been an influence on numerous forms of urban expression. With dances such as Fat Joe's "Rock-away" and Ciara's "1,2 Step", Hip-Hop has inspired inner-city dance groups such as Chicago's Dra'madik to take the trends to another level; a younger level filled with competition, entertainment and fun.

"We want to have a positive thing for teens to do so they can stay out of trouble," said Zakiya Williams, the 15-year-old captain and creator of the dance squad. "Dra'madik is all about fun."

Williams founded the Dance squad "Dra'madik" late last year with the hopes of starting an

upbeat and popular activity for interested teens. What started off as a simple idea, with the help of friends and school peers, eventually bloomed into the current squad that now consists of 15 members.

The squad has yet to make a formal debut, they are however planning to present one of their first performances as an opening for a girl's luncheon (you might want to say who the girl is) this month.

"We also got in touch with the Mayor's Office of Special Events," said Kiara Welch, also 15 and co-captain of the squad.

Welch, who named the squad based on the type of routines the group dances, is one of many other teenagers who have helped Williams run and organize the group.

Though much of the squad and office holders, including Welch and Williams, consist of Gwendolyn Brooks high school students, the captains have made it clear that any interested teen can join. A small number of teenage students from several other south side schools, including Bennett and Simeon, are dancers.

The squad meets every Friday afternoon at the Soweto Community Center located on 19



Photo: Submitted by Vincent Dixon

E. 103rd and State Street. The center was provided to the squad free of charge similar to the other accessories the group has obtained.

"Thankfully as of now, this process hasn't cost us, but once we decide on uniforms and show transportation, we have decided to collect a \$6 due each month," said Welch.

Dra'madik has been spending each practice meeting preparing new dances and steps that they hope will someday bring them to stardom. Plans for tours and concert openings have been discussed.

As the completely teen based, Dra'madik recruits member and create more routines, other established Hip-Hop dance squads, such as CVS's (say what CVS stands for before you put the acronym) "Internal Dimepieces" currently perform and compete (you should say what they compete in).

The Dimepieces (is this a separate group from "Internal Dimepieces"?) is another teen dance group composed of CVS's JROTC students. The group was created in 2002 and consists of students between the ages of 14 and 18.

"I like being in the group," said

Mayah Selly, 16, one of two leaders of the group. "It's fun." Selly also mentioned that besides a few problems with organization, the group is interesting and that she will continue to take part until her senior year.

Competitions that such groups and dance squads like Dra'madik and the Dimepieces, hope to succeed in are often held nationally or are televised on talent shows, such as Apollo or local programs often broadcasted on public access television.

Many of the moves and techniques Dra'madik and the Dimepieces present are often similar to those of today's Hip-Hop artists. As more youngsters are seen in the videos, the popularity takes hold of interested performers such as the members of the squad.

Squads like Dra'madik perform in hopes that their dreams of fame will come true.

"I'm very happy about the way it turned out," says Williams "We are slowly, but surely making it to the top."

Teenagers interested in joining Dra'madik can obtain contact information from the group's website at www.freewebs.com/dra_madik.



Dear Eyevie

Eyevie McHenry
Prosser Career Academy

Dear Eyevie Questions

Dear Eyevie,

The kids at my school always make fun of me because I'm in the LD programs at my school. I am pretty smart, but it takes me a bit longer to learn certain subjects. The other kids call me names like Slow or Lame. I am like everyone else but I am not stupid. What Should I do to make them see? Outside.

Dear Outside,

There are millions of people in the world who have learning disabilities and need a little extra help in school. The people who are making fun of you don't understand that you are not "dumb" or "slow" but actually very bright and you just need some help so you can understand things better. To help them understand you better you might want to talk to your principal and together you two can come

up with an assembly or other kind of school event that will help enlighten other people to your situation. Do some research, try to find specialist and/or other kids who are like you to come out and talk to the people at your school. Also don't let them get you down. They will come around soon enough.

Dear Eyevie,

Prom is just around the corner, but I don't have a dress or a date yet. It's my senior year, and I have always been dateless at all of my high school functions, but I don't want to seem like I am hard-up, and desperate to get a man. You see I'm a SBF- Strong black female, and I think guys run from me, yet, I still don't want to go to prom alone or with a stranger. What should I do? Desperately Dateless.

Dear Dateless,

There is nothing wrong with being

a strong black woman. Nowadays the world needs more of us. You say you don't want to go to prom alone and you don't want to seem desperate, but these are the type of mentalities of a weak person. You don't need to have a man on your arm at the prom to have a great time. It's your senior year; you could go with a group of friends and have a great time with them. But if you really want a date try asking one of your male friends if he wants to go together, then again, there isn't anything wrong with going alone (just a thought).

3. Dear Eyevie,

I am 17-years-old, and I had a baby just last year. I have been out of school for a little while, now, that I have to go back, I am afraid because I am really behind. I won't graduate with my class. I thought about dropping out for good, but I just don't know, but I know the other kids are going to

look at me funny, and judge me. I want to pursue my goals, but with the baby, I am not sure I can. Help! Afraid.

Dear Afraid,

Having a baby is a blessing from God so don't you ever forget that. Now you say you are thinking about dropping out because you are behind. How will that benefit your baby? You will be setting a bad example for your child already if you do something such as dropping out. It will be easy for you to make up for you missing work; summer school for example is a great way to catch up on missing credits. It will be hard work, but I am sure you will be able to do it, I have confidence in you. As for worrying about what other people will think of you, don't fret the small stuff. Who cares about what others think of you? You are a strong young lady and as long as you carry yourself in that manner then other people will have no choice but to respect you.

Got a question you need answered? Write

"Dear Eyevie"

623 S. Wabash, Suite 207
or

editor@newexpression.org



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NE Staff

Strange Dad

Have you ever had one of those moments you just didn't want to remember ever again, but it just so happens to be one of those moments someone else had to witness along with you to remind you everyday for the rest of your life. NE calls that your most embarrassing moment to date, because, do fear, there will be more!

One day, I was going to the mall, going shopping with my dad. Later on, as always, we split up and went to different stores.

Eventually, I decided that I should go on and look for my dad. I did and I found my dad. I knew it was him because he was wearing the bright blue jacket. That's how I knew it was him. I went up to my "supposed dad" and held his hand. As I walked with my "dad", I realized the man with the bright blue jacket wasn't my dad. It was some stranger whom had been wearing the same jacket that day.

I was so embarrassed, because I was holding his hand as if he were my dad.

Sincerely, *the almost abducted*

Forgot To Check

After lunch my two friends and me went to the washroom, which we usually do. As we got out of the washroom, everybody was looking at us; I didn't really care because that's what they always do. Anyways, I starred back at them and I gave them the "what the hell is your problem" look. I mean everybody was looking. I didn't really care until one of the guys came up to me

and said: Miss your fly is open. And everybody was laughing. It was embarrassing and this cute guy that I like was there! And I started laughing with them instead of crying, but it was really embarrassing for me!

Sincerely, *the forgetful one*

The SNEEZE

In eighth grade, I really had to

blow my nose, but my teacher made our class stand outside of the hall so I had to wait. While in the hall my friend made me laugh and a piece of snot flew out my nose. My friend saw it, and she screamed Ewwwwwww! and told the whole class, so I stepped on it so no one else would see it and it just grossed everyone else out even more. Till this day I still get made fun as my friends come up to me holding their nose, pretending to throw out a booger and stomping their feet.

Sincerely, *the snot nosed one*

Not The POPULAR

During my freshmen year at school, my friends and I decided to skip class. We went into the lunchroom and randomly sat at back table. About five minutes into the lunch period, a group of seniors came towards us with a disgusted look on their faces. They told us to move from their table because freshmen weren't allowed in the back. Avoiding a

fight, we bowed our heads and walked away feeling dumb. Everyone was looking which mad everything even worse.

Sincerely, *the insignificant fresh men*

Bugged out

I remember a time when I was about ten or eleven years old, and my uncle, aunt, and I were with my grandparents visiting our aunt who lived on the countryside. We were all playing on a hill and one of my uncles ran down the hill. Not wanting him to have the glory, I decided to roll down the hill. Big Mistake! I got up and my skin felt like it was infested with bugs, I couldn't stop scratching myself. It was so bad that I couldn't even walk because I was too involved with the scratching sensation. My uncles and my aunt had to carry me home, but with the moving around I was doing they kept dropping me; it took them a while to get me home.

Sincerely, *Foolish*

Confuse...

Half of your mind say's yes And half of it say's no
You don't know whom turn to And you don't trust your intuition
Your mind turning murky And your brain is getting smaller
You don't know whom to turn to Your falling behind
You tried to climb, but someone's pulling you back
Dead silence in the air, confuse
You don't know which one to choose
You tried to light up your mind
You tried to live in a normal life
Until each burdens are recovered
At that moment your mind is bright
Not confuse Knowing to trust yourself
Not confuse But knows how to choose...

May Millon

Poetry



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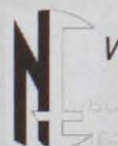
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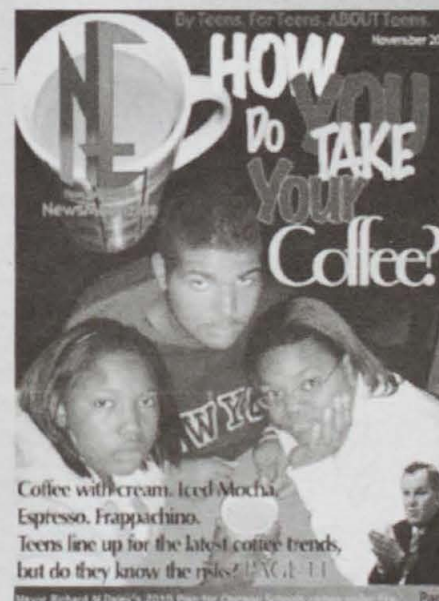
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The **77th** Academy Awards was presented on Sunday, February 27, 2005. This spectacular award show was lead by a comical host, Chris Rock. That included surprising winners from films such as "Ray", and "The Aviator" that captivated the minds of millions. Here is a short list of some of the winner:

ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE

Jamie Foxx

Movie: Ray

ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Morgan Freeman Movie: Million Dollar Baby

ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

Hilary Swank Movie: Million Dollar Baby

ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Cate Blanchett Movie: The Aviator

ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

Movie: The Incredibles

Creator: Brad Bird

Best Picture: MILLION DOLLAR BABY

Directed: Clint Eastwood, Albert S.

Ruddy and Tom Rosenberg

DIRECTING

Movie: Million Dollar Baby

Director: Clint Eastwood

MUSIC (SONG)

The Motorcycle Diaries

Song: "Al Otro Lado Del Río" By: Jorge Drexler

WRITING (ORIGINAL

SCREENPLAY) ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND

Screenplay by Charlie Kaufman; Story by Charlie Kaufman & Michel Gondry & Pierre Bismuth



MUSIC CONCERTS IN CHICAGO

Slipknot

Fri, 03/11/05

7:00 PM Allstate Arena
Rosemont, IL

Interpol

Fri, 03/11/05

7:00 PM Aragon Ballroom
Chicago, IL

Josh Groban

Wed, 03/02/05

8:00 PM Peoria Civic Center
Peoria, IL

EVENTS



Best Picture: "Million Dollar Baby" and
Best Actress: Hilary Swank
with Clint Eastwood



Best Supporting Actor: Morgan Freeman
"Million Dollar Baby"



Best Actor: Jamie Foxx
"RAY"

Stage Beauty Lightning In A Bottle The Inside

Thursday, March 10
Louder than a Bomb—Poetry
Slam Finals
Metro
3730 N. Clark, Chicago
Time TBD

This year's Louder than a Bomb is shaping up to be the biggest one yet! In addition to the four-day poetry slam, Young Chicago Authors is also offering some exciting specialized programming. Visit the Young Chicago Authors website for more information

St. Patricks Day Events

March 12th Downtown Chicago
50th Annual St. Pat's Day Parade
Columbus Drive at 12 p.m.

March 13th Irish Parade on the
South of (more Info added)

Easter- March 27, 2004

IN THEATERS

March 18, 2005

The Ring Two
Ice Princess
Melinda and Melinda

March 24, 2005

Miss Congeniality 2: Armed
Forces

Friday, March 25, 2005

D.E.B.S
Guess Who

March 30, 2005

Beauty Shop

ON DVD

March 8, 2005

Ladder 49

Women Thou Art Loosed